

⑫ **EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION**

- ④⑤ Date of publication of patent specification: 19.07.89 ⑤① Int. Cl.⁴: C 23 C 4/10
②① Application number: 85104442.0
②② Date of filing: 12.04.85

⑤④ Zirconium oxide powder containing cerium oxide and yttrium oxide.

<p>③① Priority: 02.05.84 US 606024</p> <p>④③ Date of publication of application: 02.01.86 Bulletin 86/01</p> <p>④⑤ Publication of the grant of the patent: 19.07.89 Bulletin 89/29</p> <p>③④ Designated Contracting States: DE FR GB IT*</p> <p>⑤③ References cited: EP-A-0 086 938 DE-B-1 058 422 GB-A- 745 257 GB-A-2 080 147 US-A-3 989 872</p> <p>CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 91, 1979, page 334, abstract no. 25986t, Columbus, Ohio, US; R. BUSCH: "Development of sputtering process to deposit stoichiometric zirconia coatings for the inside wall of regeneratively cooled rocket thrust chambers, & NASA (CONTRACT. REP.) CR 1978, NASA-CR-159412, 33 pp.</p>	<p>⑦③ Proprietor: THE PERKIN-ELMER CORPORATION 761 Main Avenue Norwalk Connecticut 06859-0074 (US)</p> <p>⑦② Inventor: Rangaswamy, Subramaniam 488 Bicycle Path Port Jefferson Station New York 11776 (US) Inventor: Harrington, John H. Box 355 Warwick, N.Y. 10990 (US)</p> <p>⑦④ Representative: Patentanwälte Grünecker, Kinkeldey, Stockmair & Partner Maximilianstrasse 58 D-8000 München 22 (DE)</p>
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Description

This invention relates to a flame spray zirconium oxide material for producing coatings having low thermal conductivity, and to a process of flame spraying such coatings.

5 Flame spraying involves the heat softening of a heat fusible material, such as a metal or ceramic, and propelling the softened material in particulate form against a surface which is to be coated. The heated particles strike the surface and bond thereto. A conventional flame spray gun is used for the purpose of both heating and propelling the particles. In one type of flame spray gun, the heat fusible material is supplied to the gun in powder form. Such powders are typically comprised of small particles, e.g., below
10 149 μm (100 mesh U.S. standard screen size) to about 5 μm .

A flame spray gun normally utilizes a combustion or plasma flame to produce the heat for melting of the powder particles. It is recognized by those of skill in the art, however, that other heating means may be used as well, such as electric arcs, resistance heaters or induction heaters, and these may be used alone or in combination with other forms of heaters. In a powder-type combustion flame spray gun, the carrier gas
15 for the powder can be one of the combustion gases or an inert gas such as nitrogen, or it can be simply compressed air. In a plasma spray gun, the primary plasma gas is generally nitrogen or argon. Hydrogen or helium is usually added to the primary gas. The carrier gas is generally the same as the primary plasma gas, although other gases, such as hydrocarbons, may be used in certain situations.

The material alternatively may be fed into a heating zone in the form of a rod or wire. In the wire type
20 flame spray gun, the rod or wire of the material to be sprayed is fed into the heating zone formed by a flame of some type, where it is melted or at least heat-softened and atomized, usually by blast gas, and thence propelled in finely divided form onto the surface to be coated. The rod or wire may be conventionally formed as by drawing, or may be formed by sintering together finely divided material, or by bonding together finely divided material by means of an organic binder or other suitable binder which disintegrates
25 in the heat of the heating zone, thereby releasing the material to be sprayed in finely divided form.

Flame sprayed ceramic coatings containing refractories such as zirconium oxide are often used for thermal barrier protection of metal components, such as in gas turbine engines. The zirconium oxide may contain some hafnium oxide and incidental impurities. It typically is stabilized with calcium oxide or yttrium oxide or may be in the form of magnesium zirconate. Yttrium oxide is a preferable stabilizer because it
30 renders long term stability at high temperatures. Such zirconium oxide coatings are generally used for thermal barrier purposes such as in gas turbine engines, requiring low thermal conductivity as well as resistance to thermal shock, hot corrosion and erosion.

Flame sprayed ceramic coatings usually are not fully dense, having some porosity typically up to about 20% depending on composition, powder size distribution, flame spray method and parameters. A higher
35 porosity generally contributes to lower thermal conductivity and a higher degree of resistance to thermal stress than the denser coatings. However, a more porous coating will have lower resistance to corrosion and erosion and other wear conditions that exist in the environments where such coatings are used.

R. Busch, "Development of sputtering process", NASA C.R. 159412, 1978, p. 1, 3, 7, 11 and 19 discloses thermal barrier coating. Targets are prepared by plasma spraying zirconia-ceria mixtures on stainless steel
40 supports, wherein the zirconia comprised in said mixtures consists of 50% yttria-stabilized zirconia and 50% ceria.

US-A-4,328,285 corresponding to GB-A-2080147, describes plasma spraying spherical agglomerate particles formed by spray drying a two component powder of zirconium oxide and at least 15% cerium oxide particles. An example teaches 26% cerium oxide. The patent is directed to improved
45 resistance at elevated temperatures to vanadium impurities often present in turbine fuels. In this regard yttrium oxide is considered to be detrimental, and the patent explicitly excludes yttrium oxide as well as calcium oxide from the composition of the spray powder.

It is the object of the present invention to provide an improved spray material for producing a ceramic coating having low thermal conductivity.

50 A further object of this invention is to provide an improved flame spray process for producing a ceramic coating having low thermal conductivity.

Said object is achieved by a flame spray material for producing coatings having low thermal conductivity, comprising a homogeneous ceramic composition consisting of:

zirconium oxide optionally containing up to about 10 percent of hafnium oxide based on the total
55 weight of the zirconium oxide and hafnium oxide;

cerium oxide;

yttrium oxide; and

optionally an organic binder in an amount up to about 10 percent by weight of the ceramic composition;

60 the cerium oxide being present in an amount between about 23 and 29 percent based on the total weight of the zirconium oxide, hafnium oxide and cerium oxide; and

the yttrium oxide being present in an amount between about 1 and 4 percent based on the total weight of the zirconium oxide, hafnium oxide, cerium oxide and yttrium oxide.

Furthermore, a process for producing a ceramic coating having low thermal conductivity is provided
65 comprising flame spraying said flame spray material.

According to the present invention, a ceramic composition has been developed for flame spraying onto substrates by conventional flame spray equipment. The coating produced by the flame spraying of the novel ceramic composition has low thermal conductivity compared to prior art flame sprayed ceramic coatings. Dense coatings of the composition also have excellent resistance to erosion, hot corrosion and thermal shock.

The flame spray material comprises a homogeneous ceramic composition consisting of zirconium oxide, cerium oxide, yttrium oxide, and optionally a binder in an amount up to about 10 percent. The cerium oxide is present in an amount between about 23 and 29 percent and preferably about 26 percent by weight of the total of the zirconium oxide and cerium oxide. The yttrium oxide is present in an amount between about 1 and 4 percent and preferably between about 2 and 3 percent by weight of the total of the zirconium oxide, yttrium oxide and cerium oxide. It is important that the yttrium oxide not exceed about 4 percent, as it has been found that higher amounts result in inferior coatings that are soft and weak.

The flame spray material may be in any form that is suitable for flame spraying such as a rod but is preferably in the form of a powder. The powder should have conventional size limits, generally between about $-149\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (-100 mesh) (U.S. standard screen size) and $+5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and preferably between about $-74\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (-200 mesh) and $+25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$.

As used herein in respect to the flame spray material, the term "homogeneous" means that there is a plurality of subparticles of each of the individual oxide constituents forming the structure of the ceramic composition, the subparticles being less than $25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ in size and preferably less than $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. The subparticles of each of the individual oxide constituents preferably have sizes within the same order of magnitude of each other. In one embodiment the constituents may be fully in solution together on a molecular scale. Where the flame spray material is a powder, the subparticles of the individual constituents are substantially smaller than the average size of the powder particles, for example, less than one third of the size.

It is speculated that the reason for the requirement that the composition be homogeneous is that the crystalline structures in the flame sprayed ceramic coatings are influenced critically by the chemical compositions on a microscopic or even molecular scale and, therefore, the coating compositions on such a scale should contain significant amounts of all the oxide constituents in solution. For example, where a powder is formed by merely bonding at least one of the constituents onto the surfaces of individual larger core particles of another constituent to form a powder of clad particles, which powder is not homogeneous in accordance with the present invention, the constituent clad on the surface apparently does not sufficiently diffuse into the core particle during flame spraying.

The homogeneous ceramic composition may be formed by any known or desired method. For example, the powder may be made by the conventional method of fusing or sintering together the three constituent oxides, and then crushing and screening the fused product to form powder of the proper size. Another alternative is to combine and sinter subparticles of cerium oxide and subparticles of zirconium oxide that are previously and conventionally stabilized with yttrium oxide. Yet another approach is to initially fuse zirconium oxide and cerium oxide and combine subparticles of this with subparticles of yttrium oxide. A preferred method is to fabricate the powder in the form of composite particles each of which contains a plurality of subparticles of each of the three oxide constituents bonded with a binder, preferably an organic binder, which may be present in an amount up to 10 percent and preferably at least 0.2 percent by weight. Such powder may be produced, for example, by a spray drier process such as described in U.S. Patent No. 3,617,358. Any known or desired binder such as listed in that referenced patent may be used. Generally the organic binder will burn or evaporate from the material in the heat of the flame spray process resulting in a coating which is free of the binder constituents and has the desired characteristic of thermal shock resistance.

Another method for preparing the powder is to form composite particles with a spray drier as above, feed the particles through a zone of high temperature to fuse the particles, allow the particles to cool and solidify individually, and collect the powder particles so formed. The zone of high temperature may be created with an induction plasma, a plasma spray gun through which the powder may be fed in the ordinary manner, or the like. The powder collected is comprised of solid, fused, substantially spherical particles that are homogeneous in accordance with the present invention.

The zirconium oxide constituent may be used in its unstabilized form, or, as described above, may have been previously stabilized with the yttrium oxide or the cerium oxide. Also, unless highly purified, zirconium oxide typically may contain a small proportion of hafnium oxide which has similar physical and chemical characteristics and, except for certain nuclear applications, does not substantially change the physical characteristics of coatings. Hafnium oxide may be present, amount up to about 10 percent by weight of the total of the zirconium oxide and hafnium oxide. The term "zirconium oxide" as used herein and in the claims is intended to include zirconium oxide that may contain such a proportion of hafnium oxide.

While the flame spray material of the present invention preferably is used as it is, the same optionally may be combined with other flame spray materials such as another ceramic composition or a metal. For example, where the material is a powder the homogeneous ceramic composition may be blended with another flame spray ceramic powder having desired characteristics such as wear resistance, for example alumina oxide. A flame sprayed coating of such a powder blend will have the combined properties of

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erosion resistance and thermal shock resistance. Where the second powder is a metal the ceramic coating will be a cermet with properties enhanced by the metal.

The coatings obtained with the flame spray material of the present invention may be used wherever it is desirable to form a thermally insulating barrier to protect a surface against the effects of high temperature, especially where conditions for erosion, hot corrosion or thermal shock are also present. Typical applications include gas turbine burner cans, shrouds and other turbine engine components. Other areas are rocket thrust chambers and nozzles, furnace chambers and stacks, fluid bed coal gasifiers, power plant heating surfaces, and piston domes, cylinder heads and cylinder walls of internal combustion engines, especially adiabatic diesel engines.

Coatings obtained with the material of the present invention also have sliding wear characteristics and may be used, for example, on piston ring surfaces.

The following examples illustrate the invention.

Example 1

A 8189 g quantity of zirconium oxide (ZrO_2) powder, of a particle size less than $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and approximately $3\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ average, was blended with 284 g of yttrium oxide (Y_2O_3) powder of size less than $5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and approximately $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ average, and 2877 g of cerium oxide (CeO_2) of size 1 to $5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$. A binder of sodium carboxyl methyl cellulose was dissolved in water to form a concentrated solution containing 113.5 g of binder and 4653.5 g of water.

A slip was formulated according to the following table, using the prepared concentrations described above, where applicable, and in the proportions indicated:

TABLE I

Total Added	Addition	Wt. Solids	Wt. Liquid
11,350 g	Ceramic Blend	11,350 g	
1,135 g	Binder solution at 10% solids	113.5 g	1,021.5 g
3,632 g	Water		3,632 g

In blending the ingredients to form the slip, all liquids and solutions were first weighed into the mixing tank with the mixer running. The dry powder was then fed into the mixing tank such that deflocculation occurred immediately, and after a short mixing time, the slip was uniform in consistency. The slip was spray dried as described in U.S. Patent No. 3,617,358. Heated air was introduced in a cyclonic flow pattern at the top of a vertical straight-cylindrical drying chamber. The slip was atomized and directed upwards along the vertical centerline by a blast of compressed air.

The slip was fed by pumping into the atomizing nozzle from which the atomized slip was propelled through the drying chamber, to be finally collected in chamber and cyclone collectors as a dry powder. The powder collected in the spray dryer chamber was screened with a $74\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (200 mesh) screen to yield a free flowing powder having a size in the range $-74\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (-200 mesh) to $+25$. The composition was, by weight, 72.2% zirconium oxide, 25.3% cerium oxide, and 2.5% yttrium oxide based on the total of the oxides. The cerium oxide was 26% of the total of the zirconium oxide and cerium oxide.

The powder was flame sprayed with a standard plasma flame spray gun of the general type described in U.S. Patent No. 3,145,287 and sold by METCO Inc., Westbury, New York, under the trademark METCO Type 7MB, using a GH nozzle with No. 3 powder port, and a powder feeder of the type described in U.S. Patent No. 3,501,097 and sold under the trademark METCO Type 3MP. Parameters were argon plasma gas at 689 kPa (100 psi) pressure and 2265 l/h ($80\text{ ft}^3/\text{h}$) flow, hydrogen secondary gas at 345 kPa (50 psi) and 425 l/h ($15\text{ ft}^3/\text{h}$), 500A, 68V, carrier gas 425 l/h ($15\text{ ft}^3/\text{h}$), powder feed rate 4.1 kg/h (9 pounds per hour), spray distance 8.9 cm ($3\frac{1}{2}$ inches). Coating hardness averaged Rc45. Coatings of up to about 0.3 cm ($\frac{1}{8}$ inch) thickness were sprayed onto nickel alloy substrates prepared with a bond coat of flame sprayed aluminum clad nickel alloy powder as described in U.S. Patent No. 3,322,515. Metallographic examinations of the coating revealed an absence of unmelted particles and about 3 to 4% porosity.

Comparative Example 1

The process of Example 1 was repeated except the proportions of the oxide powders were adjusted to yield a composite powder, by weight, 70.5% zirconium oxide, 24.5% cerium oxide and 5% yttrium oxide, a composition outside the scope of the present invention. Coatings were flame sprayed in a similar manner, coating hardness was Rc32 and porosity about 3 to 4%.

Comparative Example 2

The process of Example 1 was repeated except yttrium oxide was omitted from the composition, thus yielding a composite powder of, by weight, 74% zirconium oxide and 26% cerium oxide, a composition

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outside the scope of the present invention. Coatings were sprayed in a similar manner. Coating hardness was Rc37 and porosity about 5%.

5 Several coatings were prepared from commercially available powders for comparison. One such coating tested was produced with a composite powder of zirconium oxide and 20% yttrium oxide in the manner of Example 1 except without cerium oxide. The powder is sold by METCO Inc., Westbury, New York, under the trademark METCO 202—NS. Another commercial coating tested was from a pre-stabilized powder of zirconium oxide and 8% yttrium oxide, sold under the trademark METCO 204—NS. These commercial coatings are specified for use on certain gas turbine engine components.

10 The thermal conductivities of the coating of the examples and the similar commercial coatings containing no cerium oxide were measured by a recognized method utilizing a laser. Details are given in "Flash Method of Determining Thermal Diffusivity, Heat Capacity and Thermal Conductivity" by Parker et al., Journal of Applied Physics, Vol. 32, No. 9 (September 1961). Briefly a high-intensity short-duration light pulse is absorbed in the front surface of a thermally insulated specimen a few millimeters thick coated with camphor black, and the resulting temperature history of the rear surface is measured by a sensor and
15 recorded with an oscilloscope and camera. The thermal diffusivity is determined by the shape of the temperature versus time curve at the rear surface, and the thermal conductivity by the product of the heat capacity, thermal diffusivity, and the density.

For thermal cycling tests, coatings were flame sprayed to about 0.75 mm thick on a nickel alloy substrate prepared with a bond coat as in Example 1. The samples were exposed to alternating
20 impingement of a combustion flame and a jet of cold air. Results are reported as the number of cycles run, or to failure where such occurred.

Thermal shock resistance was measured on those same samples that survived the flame/air cycling. The survived samples were heated in a furnace to 1000°C and then quenched into water at room temperature. Results are reported as cycles to failure, defined by spalling.

25 To determine the suitability of the coating material for use in, for example, gas turbine engines, an erosion test was developed for testing the coating. A substrate with the coating was mounted on a water cooled sample holder and a propane-oxygen burner ring surrounding an abrasive feed nozzle was located to impinge on the sample. A $-53\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (-270 mesh) to $+15\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ aluminum oxide abrasive was fed through a nozzle having a diameter of 4.9 mm with a compressed air carrier gas at 3 l/s flow to produce a steady rate
30 of abrasive delivery. The flame from the burner produced a surface temperature of approximately 980°C. The results of this test are expressed as coating volume loss per unit time.

Results of the several tests are given in Table II.

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TABLE II

	Example 1	Example 2
5	<u>ZrO₂—25.3</u> <u>CeO₂—2.5 Y₂O₃</u>	<u>ZrO₂—24.5</u> <u>CeO₂—5 Y₂O₃</u>
	Porosity	3—4%
10	Thermal Conductivity (w/m °K, 25—1000°C)	0.85
	Flame/Air jets (Cycles)	500 (no failure)
15	Water Quench (Cycles to failure)	33—45
	Hot Erosion Resistance (cm ³ of coating loss × 10 ⁻⁴ per g of abrasive)	6
20		1.7
	METCO 202—NS	2.8
25		METCO 204—NS
	<u>ZrO₂—26 CeO₂</u>	<u>ZrO₂—8Y₂O₃</u>
	Porosity	5%
30	Thermal Conductivity (w/m °K, 25—1000°C)	7%
	Flame/Air-jets (Cycles)	1.37
35	Water Quench (Cycles to failure)	1.3
	Hot Erosion Resistance (cm ³ of coating loss × 10 ⁻⁴ per g of abrasive)	500 (no failure)
40		500 (no failure)
		33 (no failure)
		15
		1.9
		1.8

Coatings of the present invention also showed excellent resistance to a molten mixture of sodium sulphate at 750°C for 29 h.

Claims

1. A flame spray material for producing coatings having low thermal conductivity, comprising a homogeneous ceramic composition consisting of:
 50 zirconium oxide optionally containing up to about 10 percent of hafnium oxide based on the total weight of the zirconium oxide and hafnium oxide;
 cerium oxide;
 yttrium oxide; and
 optionally an organic binder in an amount up to about 10 percent by weight of the ceramic
 55 composition;
 the cerium oxide being present in an amount between about 23 and 29 percent based on the total weight of the zirconium oxide, hafnium oxide and cerium oxide; and
 the yttrium oxide being present in an amount between about 1 and 4 percent based on the total weight of the zirconium oxide, hafnium oxide, cerium oxide and yttrium oxide.
2. The flame spray material of claim 1 in which the homogeneous ceramic composition is in the form of
 60 powder having a size between about -149 μm (-100 mesh) and +5 μm.
3. The flame spray material of claim 2 in which the powder is in the form of composite particles each of which comprises a plurality of subparticles of zirconium oxide, cerium oxide and yttrium oxide, the subparticles having a size less than about 25 μm.
- 65 4. The flame spray material of claim 3 in which the subparticles have a size less than about 10 μm.

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5. The flame spray material of claim 3 in which the subparticles are bonded with the organic binder in an amount between about 0.2 and 10 percent by weight of the composition.

6. The flame spray material of claim 3 in which the composite particles are sintered.

7. The flame spray material of claim 2 in which the powder is in the form of fused particles.

5 8. The flame spray material of any of claims 1 to 7 having particles of a size between about $-74\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (-200 mesh) and $+25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ and subparticles of zirconium oxide, hafnium oxide, cerium oxide and yttrium oxide having a size less than about $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$;

the cerium oxide being present in an amount of about 26 percent by weight of the total of the zirconium oxide, hafnium oxide and cerium oxide; and

10 the yttrium oxide being present in an amount between about 2 and 3 percent by weight of the total of the zirconium oxide, hafnium oxide, cerium oxide and yttrium oxide.

9. A process for producing a ceramic coating having low thermal conductivity comprising flame spraying a homogenous flame spray material according to any of claims 1 to 8.

15 Patentansprüche

1. Flammsspritzmaterial zur Herstellung von Überzügen mit geringer Wärmeleitfähigkeit, umfassend eine homogene keramische Zusammensetzung, die aus

20 des Zirkoniumoxids, das gegebenenfalls bis zu etwa 10% Hafniumoxid, bezogen auf das Gesamtgewicht des Zirkoniumoxids und Hafniumoxids, enthält;

Ceroxid;

Yttriumoxid; und

gegebenenfalls einem organischen Bindemittel in einer Menge bis zu etwa 10 Gew.-% der keramischen Zusammensetzung besteht,

25 wobei das Ceroxid in einer Menge zwischen etwa 23 und 29%, bezogen auf das Gesamtgewicht des Zirkoniumoxids, Hafniumoxids und Ceroxids, vorliegt und

das Yttriumoxid in einer Menge zwischen etwa 1 und 4%, bezogen auf das Gesamtgewicht des Zirkoniumoxids, Hafniumoxids, Ceroxids und Yttriumoxids, vorliegt.

30 2. Flammsspritzmaterial nach Anspruch 1, worin die homogene keramische Zusammensetzung in Form eines Pulvers mit einer Größe zwischen etwa $-149\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (-100 mesh) und $+5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ist.

3. Flammsspritzmaterial nach Anspruch 2, worin das Pulver in Form von zusammengesetzten Teilchen ist, die jeweils eine Mehrzahl von Subteilchen aus Zirkoniumoxid, Ceroxid und Yttriumoxid umfassen, wobei die Subteilchen eine Größe von weniger als etwa $25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ besitzen.

35 4. Flammsspritzmaterial nach Anspruch 3, worin die Subteilchen eine Größe von weniger als etwa $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ besitzen.

5. Flammsspritzmaterial nach Anspruch 3, wobei die Subteilchen mit dem organischen Bindemittel in einer Menge zwischen etwa 0,2 und 10 Gew.-% der Zusammensetzung gebunden sind.

6. Flammsspritzmaterial nach Anspruch 3, worin die zusammengesetzten Teilchen gesintert sind.

40 7. Flammsspritzmaterial nach Anspruch 2, worin das Pulver in Form von geschmolzenen Teilchen ist.

8. Flammsspritzmaterial nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7 mit Teilchen einer Größe zwischen etwa $-74\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (-200 mesh) und $+25\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ und Subteilchen aus Zirkoniumoxid, Hafniumoxid, Ceroxid und Yttriumoxid mit einer Größe von weniger als etwa $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$,

45 wobei das Ceroxid in einer Menge von etwa 26 Gew.-% der Gesamtmenge des Zirkoniumoxids, Hafniumoxids und Ceroxids vorliegt und das Yttriumoxid in einer Menge zwischen etwa 2 und 3 Gew.-% der Gesamtmenge des Zirkoniumoxids, Hafniumoxids, Ceroxids und Yttriumoxids vorliegt.

9. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines keramischen Überzugs mit geringer Wärmeleitfähigkeit, bei dem ein homogenes Flammsspritzmaterial nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8 flammgespritzt wird.

Revendications

50 1. Matière de vaporisation à la flamme pour produire des revêtements ayant une faible conductivité thermique, comprenant une composition céramique homogène constituée de:

oxyde de zirconium contenant éventuellement jusqu'à 10% d'oxyde d'hafnium sur la base du poids total de l'oxyde de zirconium et de l'oxyde d'hafnium;

55 oxyde de cérium;

oxyde d'yttrium; et

éventuellement un liant organique en une quantité allant jusqu'à environ 10% en poids de la composition de céramique;

60 l'oxyde de cérium étant présent en une quantité comprise entre environ 23 et 29% sur la base du poids total de l'oxyde de zirconium, de l'oxyde d'hafnium et de l'oxyde de cérium; et

l'oxyde d'yttrium étant présent en une quantité comprise entre environ 1 et 4% sur la base du poids total de l'oxyde de zirconium, de l'oxyde d'hafnium, de l'oxyde de cérium et de l'oxyde d'yttrium.

2. Matière de vaporisation à la flamme de la revendication 1, dans laquelle la composition de céramique homogène est sous la forme d'une poudre ayant une taille comprise entre environ $-149\text{ }\mu\text{m}$

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3. Matière de vaporisation à la flamme de la revendication 2, dans laquelle la poudre est sous la forme de particules composites dont chacune comprend plusieurs sous-particules d'oxyde de zirconium, d'oxyde de cérium et d'oxyde d'yttrium, les sous-particules ayant une taille inférieure à environ 25 μm .

5 4. Matière de vaporisation à la flamme de la revendication 3, dans laquelle les sous-particules ont une taille inférieure à environ 10 μm .

5. Matière de vaporisation à la flamme de la revendication 3, dans laquelle les sous-particules sont liées au liant organique en une quantité comprise entre environ 0,2 et 10% en poids de la composition.

6. Matière de vaporisation à la flamme de la revendication 3, dans laquelle les particules composites sont frittées.

10 7. Matière de vaporisation à la flamme de la revendication 2, dans laquelle la poudre est sous forme de particules condensées.

8. Matière de vaporisation à la flamme de l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7, ayant des particules d'une taille comprise entre environ $-74 \mu\text{m}$ (-200 mesh) et $+25 \mu\text{m}$ et les sous-particules d'oxyde de zirconium, d'oxyde d'hafnium, d'oxyde de cérium et d'oxyde d'yttrium ayant une taille
15 inférieure à environ 10 μm ;

l'oxyde de cérium étant présent en une quantité d'environ 26% en poids du total de l'oxyde de zirconium, de l'oxyde d'hafnium et de l'oxyde de cérium; et

l'oxyde d'yttrium étant présent en une quantité comprise entre environ 2 et 3% en poids du total de l'oxyde de zirconium, de l'oxyde d'hafnium, et l'oxyde de cérium et de l'oxyde d'yttrium.

20 9. Procédé de production d'un revêtement de céramique ayant une faible conductivité thermique dans lequel on vaporise à la flamme une matière de vaporisation à la flamme homogène selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 8.

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